

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** An information distribution system for distributing information from an information provider to a user, comprising:

an information distribution device for distributing commodity information that serves as an advertisement for a commodity;

a communication terminal for receiving the commodity information, and outputting the received commodity information to a memory card, card; and

the memory card ~~that is being~~ portable and mounted on ~~the~~said communication terminal, wherein

the memory card is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the information provider, and includes:

a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information;

a judging unit operable to judge whether the received commodity information was issued from the information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly~~provider~~; and

a writing unit operable, only if the judgment is affirmative, to write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The information distribution system according to Claim 1, wherein

the memory card outputs the received commodity information to ~~the~~said communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative, and

~~the~~said communication terminal receives the commodity information from the memory card and displays the received commodity information.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The information distribution system according to Claim 2, wherein

~~the~~said writing unit outputs write-indicate information to the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative, the write-indicate information indicating that the commodity information has been written,

~~the said~~ communication terminal transmits the received write-indicate information to ~~the said~~ information distribution device,

~~the said~~ information distribution device receives the write-indicate information, generates an electronic ticket having a monetary value based on the received write-indicate information, and securely transmits the generated electronic ticket to the memory card via ~~the said~~ communication terminal, and

~~the said~~ writing unit writes the received electronic ticket to the storage unit.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The information distribution system according to Claim 2, wherein

~~the said~~ information distribution device transmits the commodity information that includes coupon information ~~showing indicating~~ a discount to be made on ~~the a~~ commodity,

~~the said~~ writing unit writes the commodity information that includes the coupon information, and

the memory card transmits, when the user purchases the commodity, the coupon information via ~~the said~~ communication terminal,

~~the said~~ information distribution system further comprising a payment settlement device for receiving the coupon information from the memory card via ~~the said~~ communication terminal and making a discount on the commodity based on the received coupon information.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The information distribution system according to Claim 2, wherein

the memory card is provided to the user based on a lease in return for regular payments of a lease fee to the information provider,

~~the said~~ storage unit stores an electronic ticket having a monetary value, and

the memory card securely transmits, on a regular basis, an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to the lease fee to ~~the said~~ information distribution device via ~~the said~~ communication terminal, and deducts the transmitted monetary value from the electronic ticket stored in ~~the said~~ storage unit.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The information distribution system according to Claim 5, wherein

the memory card reduces the lease fee on outputting the commodity information to the ~~said~~ communication terminal for a purpose of displaying to the user, securely outputs an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to ~~the~~ a post-reduction lease fee to ~~the said~~ communication terminal, and deducts the outputted monetary value from the electronic ticket stored in ~~the said~~ storage unit.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A memory card ~~provided to a user~~ for storing information transmitted from ~~an a specific~~ information provider to ~~the~~ a user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider ~~terminal~~, comprising:

- a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from ~~a the~~ a specific information provider;

- a receiving unit operable to receive commodity information from an information distribution device via ~~the said~~ communication terminal;

- a judging unit operable to judge whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly ~~provider~~; and

- a writing unit operable, only if the judgment is affirmative, to write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 7, wherein

- the memory card outputs the received commodity information to the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative, and

- the communication terminal receives the commodity information from the memory card and displays the received commodity information.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

- the commodity information includes a first provider ID identifying an information

provider that issued the commodity information,

~~the said~~ receiving unit receives the commodity information that includes the first provider ID,

~~the said~~ judging unit prestores a second provider ID identifying the specific information provider, extracts the first provider ID from the received commodity information, and judges whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, by matching the first provider ID against the second provider ID, and

~~the said~~ writing unit writes the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area if the first and second provider IDs match.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

~~the said~~ judging unit prestores a public key of the specific information provider, the information distribution device prestores a secret key of the specific information provider, generates digital signature data from the commodity information using the secret key, and transmits the generated digital signature data,

~~the said~~ judging unit receives the digital signature data via the communication terminal, and verifies validity of the digital signature data using the public key to judge whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, and

~~the said~~ writing unit writes the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area if the verification is successful.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

~~the said~~ writing unit transmits write-indicate information to the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the commodity information is judged to be issued from the specific information provider, the write-indicate information indicating that the commodity information has been written, and

~~the said~~ receiving unit securely receives, via the communication terminal, an electronic ticket generated by the information distribution device, the electronic ticket having a monetary value based on the write-indicate information.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

the memory card is provided to the user on a lease in return for regular payments of a lease fee to the specific information provider,

~~the said~~ storage unit stores an electronic ticket having a monetary value, and

~~the said~~ receiving unit securely transmits, on a regular basis, an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to the lease fee to the information distribution device via the communication terminal, and deducts the transmitted monetary value from the electronic ticket stored in the storage unit.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

~~the said~~ receiving unit receives the commodity information that includes a priority rank assigned thereto,

the commodity information storage area stores commodity information that includes a priority rank assigned thereto,

~~the said~~ writing unit writes, when enough free space is not left in the commodity information storage area, the received commodity information by overwriting previously stored commodity information that is lowest in priority rank.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

the commodity information storage area stores commodity information in association with a receiving time of the commodity information,

~~the said~~ writing unit writes, when enough free space is not left in the commodity information storage area, the received commodity information by overwriting previously stored commodity information having an earliest receiving time.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

~~the said~~ receiving unit further receives another piece of commodity information issued from another specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly.

each piece of commodity information includes a priority rank assigned to a

corresponding information provider, and

~~the said~~ writing unit writes, when enough free space is not left in the commodity information storage area, the other piece of commodity information by overwriting previously stored commodity information issued from ~~an a specific~~ information provider having a lower priority rank.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A memory card ~~provided to a user~~ for storing information transmitted from ~~an a specific~~ information provider to ~~the a~~ user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider~~terminal~~, comprising:

a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from a specific information provider;

a first receiving unit operable to receive provider information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging unit operable to judge based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly~~provider~~;

a second receiving unit operable to receive the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing unit operable to write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area.

18. (Currently Amended) The memory card according to Claim 17, wherein

the memory card outputs, only if the judgment is affirmative and thus receives the commodity information, the received commodity information to the communication terminal, and

the communication terminal receives and displays the commodity information.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 18, wherein
the commodity information is associated with a first provider ID identifying an
information provider that issued the commodity information,
~~the said~~ first receiving unit receives the first provider ID as the provider information,
~~the said~~ judging unit judges whether the received first provider ID matches a second
provider ID that identifies the specific information provider, and
~~the said~~ second receiving unit receives the commodity information if the first and second
provider IDs match.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 18, wherein
~~the said~~ judging unit prestores a public key of the specific information provider,
the information distribution device prestores a secret key of the specific information
provider,
~~the said~~ first receiving unit generates a random number, and transmits the generated
random number to the information distribution device via the communication terminal,
the information distribution device receives the random number, generates digital
signature data from the random number using the secret key, and transmits the generated digital
signature data to the memory card via the communication terminal,
~~the said~~ judging unit verifies, on the first receiving unit receiving the digital signature
data, validity of the digital signature data using the public key to judge whether the commodity
information to be received was issued from the specific information provider, and
~~the said~~ second receiving unit receives the commodity information if the verification is
successful.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The memory card according to Claim 18, wherein
an information provider device stores the commodity information issued from the
specific information provider, a second public key of the information distribution device, and a
first secret key of the information provider device, applies a digital signature algorithm to the
second public key using the first secret key to generate digital signature data, and transmits the

generated digital signature data and the second public key to the information distribution device,

the information distribution device prestores a second secret key of the information distribution device, receives the digital signature data and the second public key, and transmits the received digital signature data and second public key to the memory card via the communication terminal,

~~the said~~ judging unit prestores a first public key of the information provider device, receives the digital signature data and the second public key, and verifies validity of the digital signature data using the first public key, the digital signature data, and the second public key, and

~~the said~~ second receiving unit receives the commodity information if the verification is successful.

22. (Currently Amended) The memory card according to Claim 18, wherein

~~the said~~ first receiving unit generates a random number and transmits the generated random number to the information distribution device via the communication terminal,

the information distribution device prestores a common key, receives the random number, encrypts the random number using the common key to generate ciphertext, and transmits the generated ciphertext to the memory card via the communication terminal,

~~the said~~ judging unit prestores a common key that is identical to the common key stored in the information distribution device, and, on ~~the said~~ first receiving unit receiving the ciphertext, verifies using the common key, whether the received ciphertext is generated from the random number using the common key, and

~~the said~~ second receiving unit receives the commodity information if the ciphertext is judged to be valid.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A memory card for storing information transmitted from ~~an a~~ specific information provider to a user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, wherein

the memory card is provided to the user based on a lease in return for regular payments of a lease fee to the information provider,

the memory card comprising:

a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from the specific information provider, and a storage area for an electronic ticket having a monetary value;

a first transmitting-receiving unit operable to receive a first provider ID identifying the specific information provider from the information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a first writing unit operable to write the received first provider ID to the commodity information storage area;

a second transmitting-receiving unit operable to securely transmit, on a regular basis, an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to the lease fee to the information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a third transmitting-receiving unit operable to receive from the information distribution device, commodity information that includes a second provider ID identifying an information provider of the commodity information;

a judging unit operable to judge whether the second provider ID matches the first provider ID that identifies the specific information provider bearing the cost of the memory card at least partly;

a second writing unit operable to write, only if the first and second provider IDs match, the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user;

a fourth transmitting-receiving unit operable to reduce the lease fee by a predetermined amount when the commodity information is written, and securely transmit to the information distribution device via the communication terminal, an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to the post-reduction lease fee; and

a third writing unit operable to deducts the transmitted monetary value from the electronic ticket stored in the storage unit.

25. (Currently Amended) A memory card for storing information distributed from ~~an~~ a specific

information provider to a user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information providerterminal, comprising:

- a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from the information provider, and a storage area for an electronic ticket having a monetary value;

- a first transmitting-receiving unit operable to receive a first provider ID identifying the specific information provider from the information distribution device via the communication terminal;

- a first writing unit operable to write the received first provider ID to the commodity information storage area;

- a second transmitting-receiving unit operable to receive from the information distribution device via the communication terminal, commodity information that includes a second provider ID identifying information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

- a judging unit operable to judge whether the second provider ID matches the first provider ID that identifies the specific information provider bearing the cost of the memory card at least partly4D;

- a second writing unit operable, only if the first and second provider IDs match, to receive the commodity information and write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user;

- a third transmitting-receiving unit operable to transmit to the information distribution device via the communication terminal, write-indicate information indicating that the commodity information has been written, and securely receive an electronic ticket generated by the information distribution device for a monetary value based on the write-indicate information;
- and

- a third writing unit operable to write the received electronic ticket to the storage unit.

26. (Currently Amended) An information distribution device for distributing information issued from an information provider to a user, comprising:

- a transmitting unit operable to transmit, via a communication terminal, commodity information issued from the information provider to a memory card that is provided to the user.

wherein user:

the information distribution device generates, when receiving write-indicated information from the memory card, an electronic ticket having a monetary value based on the received write-indicated information, the write-indicate information indicating that the memory card has written the commodity information, and

said transmitting unit securely transmits the electronic ticket to the memory card via the communication terminal.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The information distribution device according to Claim 26, wherein ~~the said~~ transmitting unit transmits the commodity information that includes coupon information showing a discount to be made on a commodity of the information provider.

29. (Currently Amended) The information distribution device according to Claim 28, wherein the information distribution device receives discount-indicate information from a payment settlement device and generates an electronic ticket for a monetary value based on the received discount-indicate information, the discount-indicate information indicating that the payment settlement device has made the discount shown by the coupon information, and ~~the said~~ transmitting unit securely transmits the electronic ticket to the memory card via the communication terminal.

30. (Currently Amended) A payment settlement device for settling a payment on a commodity, comprising:

a storage unit operable to prestore a first provider ID that identifies an information provider that issues coupon information showing a discount to be made on the commodity;

a receiving unit operable to receive via a communication terminal from a memory card used by the user, coupon information including a second provider ID that identifies an information provider that issued the received coupon information;

a judging unit operable to judge whether the second provider ID matches the first

provider ID; and

a discount unit operable to make a discount shown by the received coupon information only if the first and second provider IDs match.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The payment settlement device according to Claim 30, wherein the coupon information is transmitted from an information distribution device to the memory card via the communication terminal,

~~the said~~ discount unit regularly transmits discount-indicate information to the information distribution device, the discount-indicate information indicating that the discount shown by the coupon information has been made,

~~the said~~ receiving unit securely receives an electronic ticket that is generated by the information distribution device for a monetary value based on the discount-indicate information, and

~~the said~~ storage unit stores the received electronic ticket.

32. **(Currently Amended)** A program used by a memory card for storing information distributed from ~~an~~ a specific information provider,

wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider~~user~~, and

the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from ~~a~~the specific information provider, the program causing the memory card to perform steps comprising:

a receiving step of receiving commodity information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a judging step of judging whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly~~provider~~; and

a writing step of writing, only if the judgment is affirmative, the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user.

33. **(Currently Amended)** A method used by a memory card for storing information distributed from ~~an~~ a specific information provider,

wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider~~user~~, and

the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from ~~a~~ the specific information provider, the method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving commodity information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a judging step of judging whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly~~provider~~; and

a writing step of writing, only if the judgment is affirmative, the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user.

34. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable recording medium storing a program used by a memory card for storing information distributed from ~~an~~ a specific information provider,

wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider~~user~~, and

the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from a specific information provider, the program causing the memory card to perform steps comprising:

a receiving step of receiving commodity information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a judging step of judging whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly~~provider~~; and

a writing step of writing, only if the judgment is affirmative, the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user.

35. **(Currently Amended)** A program for a memory card used by a memory card for storing

information distributed from ~~an~~ a specific information provider,

wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider~~user~~, and

the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for storing commodity information issued from ~~a~~ the specific information provider, the program causing the memory card to perform steps comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving provider information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging step of judging, based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly~~provider~~;

a second receiving step of receiving the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing step of writing the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area.

36. (Currently Amended) A method for a memory card used by a memory card for storing information distributed from an information provider,

wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider~~user~~, and

the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for storing commodity information issued from ~~a~~ the specific information provider, the method comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving provider information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging step of judging, based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of

the memory card at least partly~~provider;~~

a second receiving step of receiving the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing step of writing the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a program used by a memory card for storing information distributed from ~~an~~ a specific information provider,

wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider~~user,~~ and

the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for storing commodity information issued from a specific information provider, the program causing the memory card to perform steps comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving provider information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging step of judging, based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly~~provider;~~

a second receiving step of receiving the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing step of writing the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area.